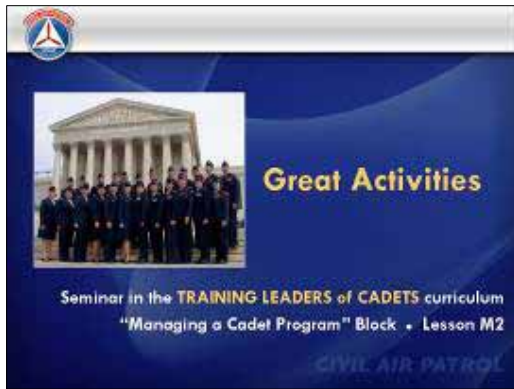


GREAT ACTIVITIES



Scope: The opportunities available in the Cadet Program are virtually unlimited, but its nucleus is the weekly squadron meeting. This seminar will begin by examining the components of these routine meetings, as well as how to organize meetings using a quarterly schedule. Next, students will examine activities conducted at the local, wing, and national level, and share success stories from their squadron’s activities in a roundtable discussion. The seminar concludes by reviewing standard management practices used in planning cadet activities.

Format: Informal Lecture and Guided Discussion

Duration: 80 minutes

Objectives:

1. Identify the elements found in routine weekly squadron meetings.
2. Describe the benefits of organizing meetings around a quarterly schedule.
3. Discuss examples of activities, and how their scope differs at the local, wing, and national level.
4. Describe standard practices for managing cadet activities.

Resources: Sample schedule from a weekly squadron meeting; quarterly plan for squadron meetings; handout comparing the scope of cadet activities at different echelons; “Today’s Cadets, Tomorrow’s Aerospace Leaders”; NCSA videos; and PowerPoint slides.




Introduction

"Summer encampment was awesome . . . I'd definitely like to go back, but I decided to quit CAP because in my squadron all we do is drill and listen to boring lectures."

Jason Clark
Former cadet

CIVIL AIR PATROL

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW



Introduction


Lessons learned from cadet exit surveys:

Annual events, no matter how wonderful, will not retain cadets. **Having worthwhile weekly meetings is the key.**

Cadets recognize quality when they see it. Ensure activities are well-planned.

Seniors need to allow cadets to have a sense of ownership over their activities. Work through the cadet staff.

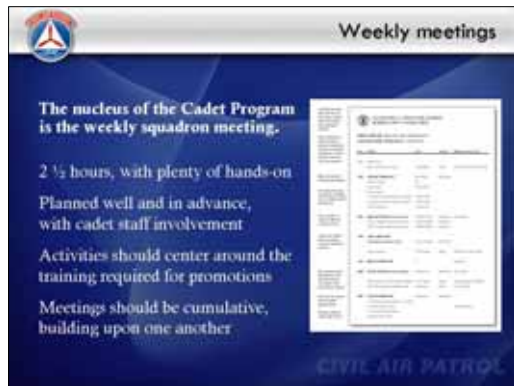
CIVIL AIR PATROL



Overview & objectives

1. Identify the elements found in routine weekly squadron meetings.
2. Describe the benefits of organizing meetings around a quarterly schedule.
3. Discuss examples of activities, and how their scope differs at the local, wing, and national level.
4. Describe standard practices for managing cadet activities.

CIVIL AIR PATROL



MAIN POINT #1: WEEKLY MEETINGS

The weekly squadron meeting is the nucleus of the Cadet Program.

What are some ways to involve the cadet staff in planning weekly meetings?

Classmates' Ideas:

Instructor's Ideas & Conclusions:

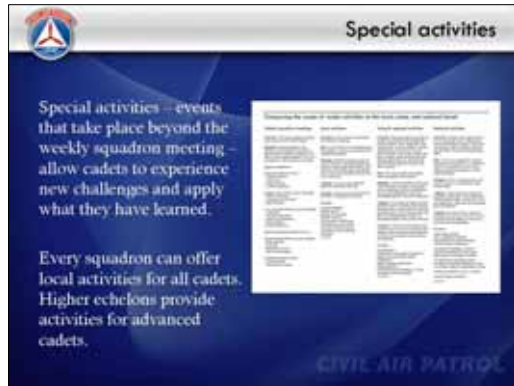
Week	Opening Foreword 12 min	Emphasis 12 min	Core Curriculum 30 min	Study & Admin Time 10 min	Special Training 25 min	Closing Foreword 10 min
1	Approved Airmen	DRG & Ceremonies	Introduction to the CAP	Administrative	Emergency services	Introduction
2	Cadet Oath	40 Current Events	Emergency Services	Emergency	Drill Team	Protocol
3	Announcements	Safety Briefing	Character Development	Personal projects	Cadet group	Group
4	Inspection	DRG & Ceremonies	Cadetship	Play date	Tutor group	
5		40 Current Events	Introduction to the CAP	Sign up for the CAP	Boat club	
6		Safety Briefing	Physical Fitness	Charity projects	Team building	
7		DRG & Ceremonies	Character Development	Charity projects	Cadet group	
8		40 Current Events	Introduction to the CAP	Sign up for the CAP	Boat club	
9		Safety Briefing	Physical Fitness	Charity projects	Team building	
10		DRG & Ceremonies	Cadetship	Play date	Tutor group	
11		40 Current Events	Introduction to the CAP	Sign up for the CAP	Boat club	
12		Safety Briefing	Physical Fitness	Charity projects	Team building	
13		Cadet	Cadet			

Quarterly schedules allow time to meet cadets' promotion requirements through a **CORE CURRICULUM**, plus do **SPECIAL TRAINING** and projects.

What are some of the benefits of using a quarterly schedule?

Classmates' Ideas:

Instructor's Ideas & Conclusions:



MAIN POINT #2: SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special activities are the electives of the Cadet Program. They are the courses, field trips, special projects and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that cadets enjoy the most about CAP. They exist to allow cadets to apply what they have learned about leadership and aerospace, and see how those academic concepts play out in the real world.

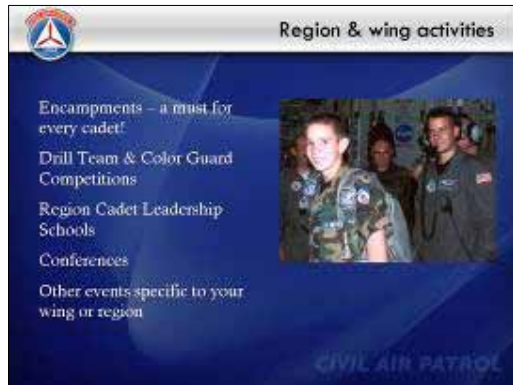
Local Activities:

Wing & Regional Activities:

National Cadet Special Activities:



What are some good local activities that your unit has had success with? What does another squadron need to know about that activity if they want to follow your lead?



Region & Wing Activities offer cadets experiences that are unavailable in their home unit.

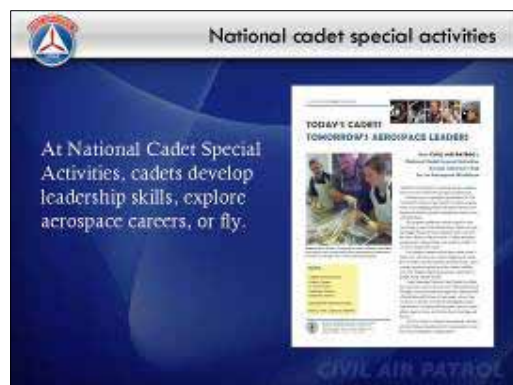
Encampments:

Drill Team & Color Guard Competitions:

Region Cadet Leadership Schools:

Conferences:

Other Events:

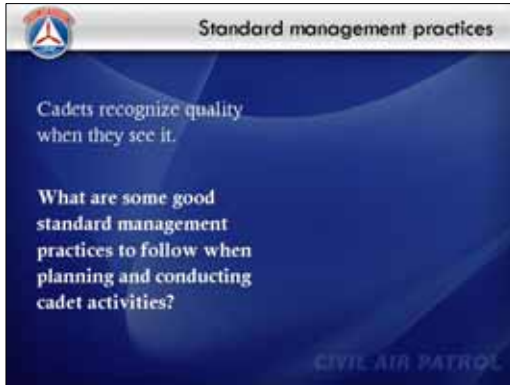


National Cadet Special Activities aim to help answer America's call for an aerospace workforce. They allow cadets to develop advanced leadership skills, explore careers in the Air Force or aerospace industry, and fly.

In what ways do you see the National Cadet Special Activities program benefiting cadets? America?

Classmates' Ideas:

Instructor's Ideas & Conclusions:



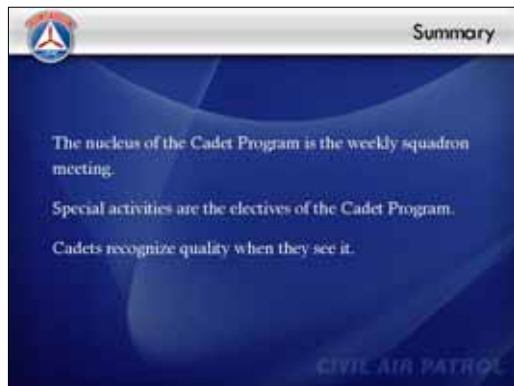
MAIN POINT #3: STANDARD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Cadets recognize quality when they see it. Again, from our exit surveys with former cadets, we know that they expect activities to be well-planned, and that the cadet staff should have a sense of ownership in the activity.

What are some standard management practices you should follow when planning cadet activities?

Classmates' Ideas:

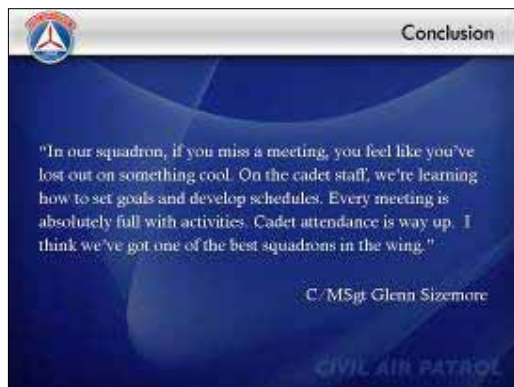
Instructor's Ideas & Conclusions:



SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

The nucleus of the Cadet Program is the weekly squadron meeting. Develop a written schedule every week. Use the quarterly schedule as a guide. Involve the cadet staff. *Do more than just drill!*

Special activities are the electives of the Cadet Program. Every echelon can offer opportunities for cadets to apply what they have learned.



Cadets recognize quality when they see it. Follow standard management practices such as having a publicity plan, specific and measurable objectives, a written schedule, etc. when planning cadet activities.

For further reading:

"Today's Cadets, Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders." Included in the TLC workbook.

National Cadet Special Activity Videos. Available at cap.gov/cadets and on *The Next Step* CD-ROM.